(b) by when these highways are scheduled to be completed; and

(c) the amount to be spent on these two projects separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Golden Quadrilateral part of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is scheduled to be completed by December 2003 one year ahead of the initial schedule and North- South and East-West component by December 2007.

(c) The estimated amount to be spent on NHDP is Rs. 54,000 crores. Out of this an amount of approximately Rs. 25,000 crore is proposed to be spent on Golden Quadrilateral and the remaining on North-South & East-West corridor.

National Highways Policy

2718. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a National Highways Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) It is the policy of the Government of India to develop and maintain the roads declared as National Highways by taking up improvement works like widening to 2/4 lanes, strengthening, construction of bypasses, reconstruction of bridges/culverts etc. based on traffic needs and inter-se priority through financing by budgetary resources, Central Road Fund, external assistance and private sector participation.

(c) Does not arise.

Completion of work of NH-53

2719. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how long it would take to complete work of NH-53 from Jiribam to Imphal with construction of bridges;

(b) the present progress of the work; and

(c) the amount so far spent and allotment for the year 2001-2002 for the NH-53?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The improvement works including construction of bridges on Jiribam-Imphal section of NH-53 are at various

stages of progress. The improvement being a continuous process, no firm date for completion can be given at this stage.

(b) The present progress of the works is as under:

(i)	Widening of formation	—	143.07 km
(ii)	Surfacing	—	54.30 km

(c) An amount of Rs. 39.82 crore has been spent so far on the improvement works and the allocation for the year 2001-2002 is Rs. 9.04 crore.

Golden Quadrilateral project

2720. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has decided to issue bonds to raise money for funding Prime Minister's North-South and East-West corridor highways proposal;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment regarding the amount required for this project; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An estimated amount of Rs. 54,000 crore is required for this project.

(c) Golden Quadrilateral is targeted for completion by December 2003 and the North-South and East-West corridors by December 2007.

Facilities on NH-8

2721. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of lack of facilities such as lighting and road carpeting on NH-8 (National Highway 8) between Delhi and Jaipur resulting in a number of fatal accidents daily;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been made to identify the deficiency in road facilities on NH-8; and

(c) if so, what safety measures have been taken by Government to make the Delhi-Jaipur stretch of the highways safe and accident free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) Delhi-Jaipur